Application No.: 10/050,849 Docket No.: SON-2311

(80001-2311)

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated (Paper No./Mail Date 20050623). By this communication, claims 1, 5, 9, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 50, and 59 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the underlying subject matter, and claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 38, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 51, 53-58, 60, and 62-67 have been amended.

Claims 2, 6, 10, 11, 42, 51, 53-57, 60, and 62-66 have been amended to improve form. No new matter has been added.

Dependent claims 4, 8, 13, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 58, and 67 have been placed into independent form. No new matter has been added.

Each of independent claims 14 and 15 have been amended to recite delay means for outputting the input data delayed by an amount of delay according to a control signal. Support for the subject matter recited in claims 14 and 15 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0357], [0359], and [0361] of corresponding U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0103839. No new matter has been added.

Each of independent claims 26, 28, and 30 have been amended to recite a delay unit that delays and outputs the plurality of outputs of the at least one computing unit based on a control signal. Support for the subject matter recited in claims 26, 28, and 30 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0357], [0359], and [0361] of corresponding U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0103839. No new matter has been added.

Each of independent claims 32, 34, 38, 43, and 44 have been amended to recite a delay unit that sets a delay between the first and second computing units based on a control signal. Support for the subject matter recited in claims 32, 34, 38, 43, and 44 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0357], [0359], and [0361] of corresponding U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0103839. No new matter has been added.

Each of independent claims 45, 46, and 48 have been amended to recite a delay unit that delays and outputs the plurality of outputs to a next stage based on a control signal. Support for the aforementioned subject matter can be found variously throughout the specification, for

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example, at paragraphs [0357], [0359], and [0361] of corresponding U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0103839. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 2549, 51-58, and 60-67 are pending where claims 4, 8, 13 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 58, and 67 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the presence of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 4, 8, 13, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 58, and 67. As discussed above, Applicant has amended the aforementioned claims by placing them in independent form.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 22, 24-57, and 59-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Landers et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,246,036. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, each of independent claims 14 and 15 have been amended to recite delay means for outputting the input data delayed by an amount of delay according to a control signal; claims 26, 28, and 30 have been amended to recite a delay unit that delays and outputs the plurality of outputs of the at least one computing unit based on a control signal; claims 32, 34, 38, 43, and 44 have been amended to recite a delay unit that sets a delay between the first and second computing units based on a control signal; and claims 45, 46, and 48 have been amended to recite a delay unit that delays and outputs the plurality of outputs to a next stage based on a control signal. The subject matter added to the aforementioned claims tracks the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner in any of claims 4, 8, 13, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 58, and 67, where applicable. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14, 15, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 48 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 14, 15, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 4, claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 8, claims 10-12 depend from claim 13, claim 27 depends from claim 26, claim 29 depends from claim 28, claim 31 depends from claim 30, claim 33 depends from claim 32, claims 35-37 depend from claim 34, claims 39-42 depend from claim 38, claim 47 depends from claim 46, claim 49 depends from

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claim 48, claims 51-57 depend from claim 58, and claims 60-66 depend from claim 67. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that the aforementioned dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with regard to their respective base claims. In addition, Applicant submits that these claims are further distinguished over Landers by the additional elements recited therein, and particularly with respect to each claimed combination. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10-12, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35-37, 39-42, 47, 49, 51-57 and 60-66 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 2549, 51-58, and 60-67 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application. In the event the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for placing the application in even better form, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2311 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted.

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